

**IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE**

In re:

BIG LOTS, INC., *et al.*,¹

Debtors.

Chapter 11

Case No. 24-11967 (JKS)

(Jointly Administered)

Hearing Date: Only if objections are filed**Objections Due: December 9, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. (ET)**

**SUMMARY OF FIRST MONTHLY FEE STATEMENT OF ALIXPARTNERS, LLP,
FINANCIAL ADVISOR TO THE CHAPTER 11 DEBTORS, FOR
ALLOWANCE OF COMPENSATION FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
RENDERED AND REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES INCURRED
FOR THE PERIOD FROM SEPTEMBER 9, 2024 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

Name of Applicant:	ALIXPARTNERS, LLP
Authorized to provide professional services to:	Big Lots, Inc.
Date of Retention:	October 21, 2024 effective as of September 9, 2024 [Docket No. 572]
Period for which compensation and reimbursement is sought:	September 9, 2024 through September 30, 2024
Amount of compensation sought as actual, reasonable and necessary:	\$1,140,618.50
Amount of payment sought:	\$912,494.80 (80% of \$1,140,618.50)
Amount of expense reimbursement sought as actual, reasonable and necessary:	\$43,255.21

¹ The debtors and debtors in possession in these chapter 11 cases, along with the last four digits of their respective employer identification numbers, are as follows: Great Basin, LLC (6158); Big Lots, Inc. (9097); Big Lots Management, LLC (7948); Consolidated Property Holdings, LLC (0984); Broyhill LLC (7868); Big Lots Stores - PNS, LLC (5262); Big Lots Stores, LLC (6811); BLBO Tenant, LLC (0552); Big Lots Stores - CSR, LLC (6182); CSC Distribution LLC (8785); Closeout Distribution, LLC (0309); Durant DC, LLC (2033); AVDC, LLC (3400); GAFDC LLC (8673); PAFDC LLC (2377); WAFDC, LLC (6163); INFDC, LLC (2820); Big Lots eCommerce LLC (9612); and Big Lots F&S, LLC (3277). The address of the debtors' corporate headquarters is 4900 E. DublinGranville Road, Columbus, OH 43081.

This is a(n): X Monthly Application Interim Application Final Application

ALIXPARTNERS, LLP

SUMMARY OF MONTHLY FEE APPLICATIONS

No Previously Filed Fee Applications

ALIXPARTNERS, LLP

SUMMARY OF HOURS AND FEES BY PROFESSIONAL
SEPTEMBER 9, 2024 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

Professional	Title	Rate	Hours	Fees
Holly Etlin	Partner & Managing Director	\$1,495	2.0	\$ 2,990.00
Amol Shah	Partner & Managing Director	\$1,495	4.8	7,176.00
Kent Percy	Partner & Managing Director	\$1,380	112.3	154,974.00
Steve Scales	Partner & Managing Director	\$1,225	54.3	66,517.50
James Horgan	Partner	\$1,200	5.1	6,120.00
Elizabeth S Kardos	Partner	\$900	5.5	4,950.00
Jarod E Clarrey	Director	\$1,100	125.4	137,940.00
Job Chan	Director	\$1,100	120.8	132,880.00
Sam Lemack	Senior Vice President	\$895	100.7	90,126.50
Thomas Reid	Senior Vice President	\$895	162.5	145,437.50
Kaitlyn Sundt McClarren	Senior Vice President	\$650	12.9	8,385.00
Brooke Filler Stavitski	Senior Vice President	\$575	4.4	2,530.00
Jennifer Braverman	Senior Vice President	\$535	58.4	31,244.00
Anthony Perrella	Vice President	\$810	142.8	115,668.00
Rosa Mecklemburg Tenorio	Vice President	\$770	114.6	88,242.00
Jimmy Jang	Vice President	\$750	160.4	120,300.00
Rowan Steere	Consultant	\$625	154.9	96,812.50
Total Hours and Fees for Professionals			1,341.8	\$ 1,212,293.00
Less: 50% Travel Fees				(71,674.50)
Total Fees for Professionals				\$ 1,140,618.50
Less: 20% Holdback				(228,123.70)
Total Fees for Professionals Less Holdback				\$ 912,494.80

Average Billing Rate	\$	850.07
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ALIXPARTNERS, LLP**SUMMARY OF HOURS AND FEES BY MATTER CATEGORY
SEPTEMBER 9, 2024 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

Code	Matter Category	Hours	Fees
1.1	Chapter 11 Process / Case Management	139.2	151,711.50
1.2	DIP Financing	29.4	24,596.00
1.3	Cash / Liquidity Matters	227.0	188,819.00
1.4	Communication & Meetings with Interested Parties	6.3	5,890.00
1.5	U.S. Trustee / Court Reporting Requirements	91.5	89,349.00
1.6	Business Plan / Analysis	78.8	74,352.00
1.8	Sale Process	35.9	28,129.00
1.11	Business Operations	33.0	36,676.00
1.13	Vendor Management	166.1	150,394.50
1.14	Executory Contracts	69.6	60,679.00
1.17	Preparation for / Attend Court Hearings	41.4	42,758.50
1.19	Retention Applications & Relationship Disclosures	81.2	47,109.00
1.21	Due Diligence Support	61.7	56,219.50
1.22	Real Estate Advisory	128.3	102,848.00
1.24	Accounting Advisory for Bankruptcy	8.4	9,413.00
1.31	Travel Time	144.0	71,674.50
	Total Hours and Fees By Matter Category	1,341.8	\$ 1,140,618.50

Average Billing Rate \$ 850.07

ALIXPARTNERS, LLP**SUMMARY OF EXPENSES
SEPTEMBER 9, 2024 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

Expense Category	Amount
Airfare	\$ 14,964.25
Computer Supplies / Support	2,121.74
Gas/Fuel	29.90
Ground Transportation	4,265.87
Internet	24.00
Lodging	13,627.77
Meals	6,282.39
Parking & Tolls	142.00
Rental Car	1,692.29
Train	105.00
Total Expenses	\$ 43,255.21

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FINANCIAL ADVISOR TO THE CHAPTER 11 DEBTORS, FOR
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RENDERED AND REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES INCURRED
FOR THE PERIOD FROM SEPTEMBER 9, 2024 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

AlixPartners, LLP (“AlixPartners”), as financial advisor to the above-captioned debtors (the “Debtors”), hereby submits its first monthly application (the “Application”) for allowance of compensation for professional services rendered and reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses incurred for the period from September 9, 2024 through September 30, 2024 (the “Compensation Period”). AlixPartners respectfully states as follows:

Jurisdiction and Venue

1. The United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware (the “Court”) has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 157 and 1334. This is a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157(b)(2).

¹ The debtors and debtors in possession in these chapter 11 cases, along with the last four digits of their respective employer identification numbers, are as follows: Great Basin, LLC (6158); Big Lots, Inc. (9097); Big Lots Management, LLC (7948); Consolidated Property Holdings, LLC (0984); Broyhill LLC (7868); Big Lots Stores - PNS, LLC (5262); Big Lots Stores, LLC (6811); BLBO Tenant, LLC (0552); Big Lots Stores - CSR, LLC (6182); CSC Distribution LLC (8785); Closeout Distribution, LLC (0309); Durant DC, LLC (2033); AVDC, LLC (3400); GAFDC LLC (8673); PAFDC LLC (2377); WAFDC, LLC (6163); INFDC, LLC (2820); Big Lots eCommerce LLC (9612); and Big Lots F&S, LLC (3277). The address of the debtors’ corporate headquarters is 4900 E. DublinGranville Road, Columbus, OH 43081.

2. Venue is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409.

Basis for Relief

3. The bases for the relief requested herein are Sections 330 and 331 of Title 11 of the United States Bankruptcy Code (the “Bankruptcy Code”), Rule 2016 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the “Bankruptcy Rules”), Rule 2016-2 of the *Local Rules of Bankruptcy Practice and Procedure of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware* (the “Local Rules”), the *United States Trustee Guidelines for Reviewing Applications for Compensation and Reimbursement of Expenses Filed Under 11 U.S.C. § 330*, adopted June 11, 2013 (the “U.S. Trustee Guidelines”) and the *Order, Pursuant to Sections 105(a) and 331 of the Bankruptcy Code, Bankruptcy Rule 2016(a), and Local Rule 2016-2, Order Establishing Procedures for Interim Compensation and Reimbursement of Expenses of Retainer Professionals* [Docket No. 289-1] (the “Interim Compensation Order”).

Background

4. On September 9, 2024 (the “Petition Date”), the Debtors each filed a voluntary petition for relief under chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code, thereby commencing the above-captioned chapter 11 cases (the “Chapter 11 Cases”) in this Court.

5. No trustee or examiner has been appointed in these Chapter 11 Cases.

6. On November 8, 2024, the Office of the United States Trustee for the District of Delaware (the “U.S. Trustee”) appointed the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors (the “Committee”) [Docket No. 1050-2].

AlixPartners' Retention

7. On September 18, 2024, the Debtors filed the *Debtors' Application for Entry of an Order Authorizing the Employment and Retention of AlixPartners, LLP as Financial Advisor for the Debtors Effective as of the Petition Date* [Docket No. 206].

8. On October 21, 2024, the Court entered the *Order Authorizing Debtors to Employ and Retain AlixPartners, LLP as their Financial Advisor Effective as of the Petition Date* [Docket No. 572] (the "Retention Order").

9. AlixPartners is currently holding a retainer in the amount of \$425,221.93 (the "Retainer"). Pursuant to the Retention Order, the Retainer shall be treated as an evergreen retainer and held by AlixPartners as security throughout these Chapter 11 Cases until AlixPartners' fees and expenses are fully paid.

10. The Retention Order approved the terms of AlixPartners' hourly fee and expense structure set forth in the engagement letter dated September 4, 2024 (the "Engagement Letter") and authorized AlixPartners to be compensated and reimbursed pursuant to section 330 of the Bankruptcy Code in accordance with the terms of the Engagement Letter, subject to the procedures set forth in the Bankruptcy Code, Bankruptcy Rules, Local Rules, U.S. Trustee Guidelines and the Interim Compensation Order, and any other applicable orders of this Court.

11. Pursuant to the Engagement Letter, Holly Etlin is the Partner and Managing Director responsible for this engagement, assisted by a staff of consultants at various levels with a wide range of relevant skills and abilities.

12. The Interim Compensation Order provides that, upon the expiration of the objection deadline (the "Objection Deadline"), a professional may file a certificate of no objection (a "CNO") with the Court with respect to any professional fees and out-of-pocket expenses not subject to

objection. After a professional files a CNO, the Debtors are authorized and directed to pay the professional 80% of the fees and 100% of the expenses requested in the Application that are not subject to an objection.

Fees and Expenses During the Compensation Period

13. During the Compensation Period, AlixPartners provided an aggregate of 1,341.8 hours of professional services in the amount of \$1,140,618.50 and incurred out-of-pocket expenses in the amount of \$43,255.21. After applying a 20% holdback of fees in the amount of \$228,123.70, AlixPartners seeks payment of 80% of fees for services rendered in the amount of \$912,494.80, and 100% of expenses incurred in the amount of \$43,255.21, for a total payment of \$955,750.01 for the Compensation Period.

14. Detailed descriptions of the services performed by each professional, organized by matter category and by date, and the hours of services provided (in tenths of an hour) during the Compensation Period are attached hereto as **Exhibit A**.

15. A detailed list of the out-of-pocket expenses incurred during the Compensation Period are attached hereto as **Exhibit B**.

Services by Category Provided During the Compensation Period

16. AlixPartners classified the services performed into separate categories. The descriptions below summarize the services provided by AlixPartners to the Debtors during the Compensation Period.

Matter Code 1.1: Chapter 11 Process/Case Management

139.2 hours - \$151,711.50

- Organized and managed the Debtors' resources to effectively and efficiently plan, coordinate and manage the Chapter 11 process
- Attended meetings with management team and other advisors to coordinate Chapter 11 process

Matter Code 1.2: DIP Financing

29.4 hours - \$24,596.00

- Complied with the DIP reporting requirements
- Monitored and reported on ongoing covenant compliance
- Prepared and reported on professional fee forecasts

Matter Code 1.3: Cash/Liquidity Matters

227.0 hours - \$188,819.00

- Monitored liquidity and updated budget and forecast
- Assisted the Debtors in planning and tracking disbursements

Matter Code 1.4: Communication & Meetings with Interested Parties

6.3 hours - \$5,890.00

- Met and communicated with various Debtor professionals, lenders and/or interested parties

Matter Code 1.5: U.S. Trustee/Court Reporting Requirements

91.5 hours - \$89,349.00

- Ensured compliance with the requirements of the Court, the U.S. Trustee, and/or the Bankruptcy Code
- Prepared financial and operating information, including monthly operating reports, Statements of Financial Affairs, Schedules of Assets and Liabilities, Initial Debtor Interview support, and other motions, orders and stipulations related thereto

Matter Code 1.6: Business Plan / Analysis

78.8 hours - \$74,352.00

- Prepared long term business plan and operational impacts of store closures
- Incorporated supply chain optimization and store optimization into financial plans

Matter Code 1.8: Sale Process

35.9 hours - \$28,129.00

- Prepared responses to diligence inquiries from potential acquirers of the business
- Attended meetings with various parties to answer diligence questions

Matter Code 1.11: Business Operations

33.0 hours - \$36,676.00

- Assisted company in day-to-day operations and operational issues

Matter Code 1.13: Vendor Management

166.1 hours - \$150,394.50

- Reviewed and tracked vendor disbursements
- Reconciled vendor and payments and updated disbursement register

Matter Code 1.14: Executory Contracts

69.6 hours - \$60,679.00

- Collaborated with debtors to identify potential contracts for assumption and associated cure costs

Matter Code 1.17: Preparation for / Attend Court Hearings

41.4 hours - \$42,758.50

- Attended court hearings related to first day motions
- Attended lease sale hearings

Matter Code 1.19: Retention Application & Relationship Disclosures

81.2 hours - \$47,109.00

- Reviewed AlixPartners' retention application

Matter Code 1.21: Due Diligence Support

61.7 hours - \$56,219.50

- Prepared analyses in response to the diligence requests from external advisors and other interested parties

Matter Code 1.22: Real Estate Advisory

128.3 hours - \$102,848.00

- Prepared analysis to support company's store closing process
- Reconciled data related to outstanding cure balances

Matter Code 1.24: Accounting Advisory for Bankruptcy

8.4 hours - \$9,413.00

- Provided accounting guidance related to bankruptcy treatment

Matter Code 1.31: Travel Time

144.0 hours - \$71,674.50

- Traveled to meetings outside of consultants' respective "home" office region (Hours billed under this category were billed at 50% of AlixPartners' standard rates)

17. AlixPartners believes that the fees and out-of-pocket expenses requested are reasonable, actual and for necessary services rendered or expenses incurred on behalf of the Debtors during the Compensation Period.

18. AlixPartners has not entered into any agreement, express or implied, with any other party for the purpose of fixing or sharing fees or other compensation to be paid for professional services rendered in these Chapter 11 Cases. No promises have been received by AlixPartners or any

member thereof as to compensation in connection with these Chapter 11 Cases other than in accordance with the provisions of the Bankruptcy Code.

Certification

19. The Certification of Holly Etlin is attached hereto as **Exhibit C** and incorporated herein.

No Prior Request

20. No prior request for the relief sought in this Application has been made to this or any other court. This Application is made without prejudice to further or final applications based upon all relevant criteria, including the results achieved in the case as a whole.

Notice

21. Notice of this Application has been or will be provided to those parties entitled to receive notice hereof in accordance with any applicable order of this Court.

Conclusion

WHEREFORE, AlixPartners, as financial advisor to the Debtors, respectfully requests: (i) an interim allowance of compensation for professional services in the amount of \$1,140,618.50 and reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses in the amount of \$43,255.21 for the Compensation Period; (ii) that, upon the expiration of the Objection Deadline and entry of a CNO, the Debtors are authorized and directed to pay AlixPartners fees in the amount of \$912,494.80 (80% of \$1,140,618.50) and 100% of out-of-pocket expenses in the amount of \$43,255.21, for a total amount of \$955,750.01; and (iii) such other and further relief as this Court deems proper.

Dated: November 25, 2024

ALIXPARTNERS, LLP
909 Third Avenue, 28th Floor
New York, New York 10022

/s/ Holly Etlin

By: Holly Etlin
Partner & Managing Director